amorphous poly-1,4-dioxan-2-one, amorphous polytrimethylene carbonate and miscible blends thereof.

13. The medical device of claim 12 wherein the dispersed phase is an aliphatic polyester selected from the group consisting of poly(ε-caprolactone); copolymers of ε-caprolactone and with up to 40 mole percent of a second monomer selected from the group consisting of lactide, lactic acid, glycolide, glycolic acid, 1,4-dioxan-2-one, and trimethylene carbonate; copolymers of ε-caprolactone or trimethylene carbonate with greater than 60 mole percent 1,4-dioxan-2-one but less than 90 mole percent and blends thereof.

14. A method of shaping a surgical article having a portion thereof formed from an absorbable polymeric matrix comprises heating that portion of the surgical article that is formed from the absorbable polymeric matrix until a visual cue is provided by the absorbable polymeric matrix that the portion of the surgical article made from the absorbable polymeric matrix may be safely shaped, then shaping that portion of the surgical article to the desired final shape while the visual cue is present and allowing the surgical article to cool.

15. The process of claim 14 wherein the surgical article is heated to a temperature in the range of from about 40°C to about 65°C.

16. The process of claim 14 wherein the surgical article is heated in a biocompatible liquid medium.

17. The process of claim 14 wherein the surgical article is selected from the group consisting, bone substitutes, vertebral discs, pins, rods and plates.

18. The process of claim 14 wherein the absorbable polymeric matrix has a continuous phase that is an amorphous aliphatic polyester selected from the group consisting of amorphous polylactide, amorphous polyglycolide, amorphous poly-1,4-dioxan-2-one, amorphous polytrimethylene carbonate and miscible blends thereof.

19. The process of claim 18 wherein the absorbable polymeric matrix has a dispersed phase that is an aliphatic polyester selected from the group consisting of poly(ε-caprolactone); copolymers of ε-caprolactone and with up to 40 mole percent of a second monomer selected from the group consisting of lactide,

lactic acid, glycolide, glycolic acid, 1,4-dioxan-2-one, and trimethylene carbonate; copolymers of ε-caprolactone or trimethylene carbonate with greater than 60 mole percent 1,4-dioxan-2-one but less than 90 mole percent and blends thereof.

20. The process of claim 19 wherein the dispersed phase comprises from about 2 to about 20 weight percent of the absorbable polymeric matrix.

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